

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 2 TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND WARNING

- PRIMARY AGENCIES:** Washington State Military Department
Emergency Management Division
Washington State Department of Information Services
- SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Department of General Administration
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Liquor Control Board
Washington State Military Department
National Guard
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington State Washington State Patrol
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
All Other State Agencies
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Telecommunications Service Providers
Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is twofold:

1. To provide guidance for rapid alerting and warning to key state and local jurisdictions officials and the general public of an impending or occurring natural or technological emergency or disaster.
2. To provide guidance for organizing, establishing, and maintaining the telecommunications and information system capabilities necessary to meet the operational requirements of state and local jurisdictions in responding to, and recovering from, emergencies and disasters.

B. Scope

This ESF describes in two appendices, the coordination of state and local jurisdictions actions to be taken to establish and maintain telecommunications, information systems, and warning support in preparation for, response to, and recovery from an emergency or disaster which effects the population and operation of local and state government. Support includes: state government furnished telecommunications, commercially leased communications, and telecommunications services provided under the Federal Response Plan and the National Security Emergency Preparedness procedures for expediting service requirements covered under the Telecommunications Service Priority program.

II. POLICIES

- A. The *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)*, as described by this ESF, will govern all state telecommunications, information systems, and warning activities related to mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies or disasters.
- B. Telecommunications, information systems, and warning support requirements which cannot be met at the lowest level of authority, will be escalated upward for resolution at the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD), Emergency Operations Center (EOC). If needed, federal assistance will be requested.
- C. Local jurisdictions shall develop telecommunications/information systems and warning plans and systems commensurate with local jurisdiction emergency management requirements and needs. Local jurisdiction plans should complement state plans and systems should be interoperable with the state system when and where feasible.
- D. State agencies shall develop telecommunications/information system contingency plans, disaster recovery/business resumption plans, and information system security plans commensurate with the agency's requirements and needs. Agency plans should complement the state CEMP.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

- 1. The state of Washington is at all times subject to a variety of emergency or disaster events requiring dissemination of warning and/or other emergency information to state or local jurisdiction officials.
- 2. Emergency or disaster warning may originate from any level of government or other sources. Most forecasting resources are located within the federal government. This may include watches and warnings for: floods, seismic sea wave (tsunami), avalanches, severe weather, volcanic eruptions, fixed nuclear facility incidents, hazardous material incidents, as well as earthquake occurrence notification.
- 3. The sudden and unexpected nature of a catastrophic event, such as an earthquake and its extensive damage, will result in numerous requests from all levels of government for services required to save lives, protect property, and preserve the environment.
- 4. Government authorities will require accurate and timely information on which to base their decisions and focus their response actions. Concurrently, widespread damage to commercial telecommunications facilities is likely. At a time when the need for real-time electronically processed information is greatest, the capability to produce it will be seriously restricted or nonexistent. All surviving telecommunications assets of the various levels of government, augmented by extra-regional

assets, will be needed immediately to assure a proper response to the needs of the victims of the event.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. The state and local jurisdictions will focus on coordinating lifesaving activities concurrent with reestablishing control of the affected area. The state, in conjunction with the telecommunications industry, will accomplish as much restoration and reconstruction of telecommunications facilities as the situation permits.
2. Initial reports of damage will be fragmented, providing an incomplete picture on the extent of damage to telecommunications facilities.
3. Weather and other environmental factors will restrict the ability to deploy mobile or transportable telecommunications equipment into the affected area.
4. Conditions following the event will necessitate the careful consideration of sites for establishing staging areas, shelters, assistance centers, alternate operations centers, the Disaster Field Office (DFO), and communications to support.
5. A Governor's Proclamation of Emergency and/or a Presidential Disaster Declaration per Public Law (PL) 93-288, as amended, will be requested and announced, if the situation warrants.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Reliable telecommunications and information system capabilities are necessary at all levels of government for day-to-day communications, warning of impending events, response and recovery operations, search and rescue operations, and coordination with other state and public safety agencies. Such capabilities must be available to the state for operations from the primary or alternate EOC as well as any other location selected because of existing conditions at the time of the emergency or disaster.
2. The federal government, under the Federal Response Plan (FRP) and the National Security Emergency Preparedness procedures may, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provide temporary emergency communications assistance to state and/or local jurisdictions prior to or during an emergency or disaster.
3. Emergency communication between local jurisdictions and the federal government, as well as, with other state agencies is provided through the state EOC communications facility.
4. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) operates through designated radio and television stations and is intended to provide federal, state, and local

jurisdictions with the means to disseminate prompt alerting information concerning emergency or disaster type events.

5. Communications capabilities presently available to the state include systems at the primary EOC and the major systems belonging to various state agencies such as the Department of Information Services, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Washington State Patrol, and Military Department - National Guard.
6. The communications capabilities presently available to and coordinated by the state EMD are:
 - a. Commercial telephone, i.e. private line, leased line, regular telephone, cellular telephone, satellite telephone, and facsimile.
 - b. NAWAS (National Warning System, landline - voice, intra-state landline-voice.
 - c. National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Weather Wire through ACCESS (A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System, landline - teletype).
 - d. EAS (Emergency Alert System) Relay Network (Public Safety radio and the broadcast industry).
 - e. CEMNET (Comprehensive Emergency Management Network) two-way VHF radio systems for backup direction and control.
 - f. State Agency Emergency Network, 800 MHz two-way radio system for back-up direction and control.
 - g. SECURE (State Emergency Communications Using Radio Effectively), a point-to-point high frequency two-way radio system.
 - h. RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) (two-way radio and/or packet systems via ham frequency bands).
 - i. FNARS (Federal Emergency Management Agency National Radio System), a high frequency radio system.
 - j. Unique dedicated circuits to Energy Northwest Columbia Generating System, U.S. Department of Energy – Hanford Site, and Umatilla Chemical Depot (Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program)/Benton County. (Landline - voice/facsimile.
7. A Telecommunications Coordinating Committee, as requested by the EMD, may advise state EMD on the availability, selection, and use of telecommunications and information system capabilities during all four phases of emergency management.

B. Organization

The ESF 2 Telecommunications Cell consists of the state EMD Telecommunications Section, and representatives from the telecommunications providers, state agencies, and the FRP ESF 2.

C. Procedures

1. State Emergency Management NAWAS Handbook, dated August 1996, with changes, maintained separately.
2. State of Washington Emergency Alert System Operations Plan, dated September, 1993 maintained separately.
3. State Emergency Operations Officer Standard Operating Procedures, maintained separately.
4. State Emergency Management Communications Room Standard Operating Procedures, maintained separately.
5. State Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) Plan, dated November 1995, with changes, maintained separately.
6. State Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) Planning Guidance, dated July 1996, with changes, maintained separately.

D. Mitigation Activities

See Appendices 1 and 2 of this ESF.

E. Preparedness Activities

See Appendices 1 and 2 of this ESF.

F. Response Activities

See Appendices 1 and 2 of this ESF.

G. Recovery Activities

See Appendices 1 and 2 of this ESF.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agencies

1. Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

Overall responsibility for planning and coordinating the emergency telecommunications program within the state.

2. Washington State Department of Information Services

Overall responsibility for planning and coordinating the information technology program within the state.

B. Support Agencies

1. Washington State Departments of Corrections, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Health, General Administration, Military Department - National Guard, Natural Resources, Washington State Patrol, Transportation, Liquor Control Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission

Provides telecommunications and information system staff and system/equipment assistance, as available and in accordance with the agencies primary mission.

2. All Other State Agencies

Provides internal telecommunications and information system support to the organization to return the agency to its day-to-day activities following an emergency or disaster.

3. Federal Emergency Management Agency

Provides a national telecommunications system capable of connecting state, federal, and commercial systems for appropriate emergency operations.

4. Telecommunications Service Providers

Meets the provisions of WAC 480.120.520.

5. Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations

Assures that local jurisdiction communications systems can be utilized from or to the local jurisdiction EOCs and mobile facilities.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Local jurisdictions, state, federal, and other supporting agencies should develop and make available, when necessary, the requisite personnel and equipment to fulfill roles and responsibilities identified in this ESF. As a minimum, all agencies should expect to sustain immediate operations for 72 hours and have other resources programmed for use up to 14 days.

VII. REFERENCES

- A. Chapter 38.52 RCW.
- B. *Federal Response Plan* dated April 1992.
- C. Civil Preparedness Guide (CPG) 1-14, dated March 1991 titled: *Principles of Warning and Criteria Governing Eligibility at National Warning System (NAWAS) Terminals*.
- D. Civil Preparedness Guide (CPG) 1-16, dated April 1992 titled: *National Warning System Operations*.
- E. *State of Washington, Information Services Board, Department of Information Services, Information Technology Policy Manual*

VIII. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 4.

IX. APPENDICES

A. Appendix 1, Telecommunications and Information Systems

Tab A Priority Channels for Mutual Aid, Interoperability, and Direction and Control

Tab B Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET)

Tab C State Emergency Communications Using Radio Effectively (SECURE)

Tab D Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)

Tab E Other Frequencies Monitored

Tab F Other Voice/Data Systems

B. Appendix 2, Warning